

Taking Aim at ALEC

By Jason Houk

Local Occupy groups, in coordination with Occupy Portland and over 70 cities nationwide, participated in “Shut Down the Corporations”, demonstrations and direct action challenging the corruptive influence of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC).

“This national day of action was directed at corporations who use their profits to buy off our representatives to pass corporate sponsored legislation. This is done through the American Legislative Exchange Council. Today's protests focused on corporations who use ALEC to get their corporate agendas through state and national governments.” according to Occupy Medford.

ALEC is an organization of legislators and corporations that meet in a secret “public-private partnership” to draft model legislation limiting worker and consumer rights, privatizing government services, and pushing “free” trade.

The Center for Media and Democracy and The Nation have leaked more than 800 ALEC bills which detail efforts to disenfranchise low-income voters, oppose donor disclosure limits in campaign finance and push far-reaching anti-union legislation.

Detailed on the ALEC Exposed website, “These bills and resolutions reach into almost every area of American life: worker and consumer rights, education, the rights of Americans injured or killed by corporations, taxes, health care, immigration, and the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink. Only by seeing the depth and breadth and language of the bills can one fully understand the power and sweep of corporate influence behind the scenes on bills affecting the rights and future of every American in every single state.”

ALEC helped craft Wisconsin’s Gov. Scott Walkers anti-union legislation, eliminating collective bargaining rights for public employees. The bill passed, but not before tens of thousands occupied the state capitol in Madison in protest.

ALEC also drafted Arizona’s punitive immigration bill, SB1070, giving police increased authority to detain anyone suspected of being an undocumented immigrant. The bill sparked nationwide protest and lawsuits by the Obama administration and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Move to Amend David Cobb Rogue Valley Barnstorm

By Vanessa Houk

Former Green Party presidential nominee and nationally known “Move to Amend” speaker, David Cobb will be barnstorming through Ashland and Medford March 4 and 5.

Brought to the community by OSPIRG and other Move to Amend organizations, Cobb will speak at a forum on “Creating Democracy and Challenging Corporate Rule”, which has been described as “part history lesson and part heart-felt call to action”.

The forum takes place at the Medford Library from 7-9 pm on Monday March 5.

Citizens United v. FEC gave corporations a Supreme Court stamped seal-of-approval for unlimited spending for elections.

Cobb will help local residents understand the history behind that recent decision and discover how they can work to abolish “Corporate Personhood” and reestablish a government of, by, and for the people.

“Corporate Personhood commonly refers to court-created precedent that gives corporations constitutional rights intended solely for human beings. Corporate personhood is not an inconsequential legal technicality. The Supreme Court ruled that a corporation was a ‘legal person’

Local Coalition Seeks Health Care Advocates

By Jason Houk

Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice (SOJwJ), a local coalition uniting labor unions, religious congregations, student groups and community organizations, have joined the Oregon Single Payer Campaign (OSPC) and is looking for community members, activists, and medical professionals who would like to play an integral role in the planning and development of universal health care in Oregon.

According to SOJwJ organizer Wes Brain, “Our coalition seeks, as far as possible, to unite everyone in Oregon who is willing to work for a universal, publicly funded, comprehensive health care system.” SOJwJ will be the regional leader working to secure affordable health care for each and every Oregonian.

Last year, the Vermont legislature voted to create a universal health care program, following a three-year campaign by the Vermont Workers



Activists shut down B of A in Medford.
Photo via Occupy Medford

ALEC is funded by some of the biggest foundations and corporate CEOs in the country, such as the Koch family. Companies that benefit from ALEC’s influence including Monsanto, BP, Pfizer, Corrections Corporation of America, ExxonMobil, Bank of America, and Wal-Mart.

In Medford, a group of about 25 people braved the snow and cold on February 29th to protest at the downtown Bank of America. A march was held from Vogel Plaza to the site of the protest, and following the march, a group of protesters went inside to denounce Bank of America’s rampant illegal foreclosures and their participation in ALEC. In response Bank of America locked their front door and did not allow anyone in for several hours, except for select customers through a back entrance.

As Occupy continues to target ALEC corporations and legislators, lawmakers in Arizona and Wisconsin are working to introduce the ALEC Accountability Act, which would push the group to disclose its donors and register as a lobbying organization

“It’s hijacking our political system.” says anti-ALEC activist Mike Barcus. “For the sake of our democracy and our futures, the elimination of the American Legislative Exchange Council is the only acceptable outcome, whatever it takes.”

with 14th Amendment protections before they granted full personhood to African-Americans, immigrants, natives, or women”, states David Cobb who is an organizer, spokesperson for Move to Amend and an attorney helping to lead the coalition.

“We are inspired by historic social movements that recognized the necessity of altering fundamental power relationships,” says Cobb. “America has progressed through ordinary people joining together for causes that affect all of us, regardless of our ideological differences. From the Revolutionaries to Abolitionists, Suffragists, Trade Unionists, and Civil Rights activists, We the People have only produced sweeping change by working together with those whom they may disagree on other issues. Move to Amend is a long-term effort to make the U.S. Constitution a better democratic republic.”

The library forum will center on how the Rogue Valley can join the national movement of Move to Amend. Cobb will provide information about the issue and facilitate a discussion about local action in the Rogue Valley and in communities across the United States to win the amendment campaign through grassroots mobilization.

For more information visit www.movetoamend.org.

Center. Members of the Vermont campaign recently toured Oregon, sharing their insight and model for success. By follow Vermont’s example, the OSPC coalition will focus on grassroots community organizing and outreach with a goal of introducing legislation to declare health care as a human right in Oregon.

According to a new study published in the American Journal of Public Health, 44,789 Americans die each year because they do not have access to health insurance.

SOJwJ organizes workers and communities in Jackson, Josephine, Douglas and Klamath Counties. If you are interested in being a part of this campaign, visit www.sojwj.org or call 541-482-6988 for more information.

Health Care
We’re Dying for it!

Ashland City Council Drops the Ball

By Andy Seles

The issue of “corporate personhood,” a phrase as paradoxical and satiric as a “right to work” state has deep roots in me. At a young age, I got to see and feel the power of unregulated corporate power. My father was a dairy farmer in Connecticut in the 1950s forced to go out of business by what was then the beginnings of the huge dairy agribusiness. Simply put, he and other small farmers like him could not keep up financially with meeting the regulations foisted upon them by the Connecticut state legislature and their corporate cronies (lobbyists). So, please realize that, early on, having to say good-bye to Lassie and Buttercup, I had some emotional “skin in the game.”

Today, the “Citizen’s United Decision” makes me think of the computer “Hal” (in 2001, A Space Odyssey), a man-made creation that literally takes over the spaceship. Corporations are essentially “creatures of law;” they are, like Hal, essentially highly effective tools. Corporations can and do accomplish great things. The ship *The Mayflower* that brought the Pilgrims to our shores in 1620 was, in fact, a corporate ship. Any so-called “rights” of corporations, however, come not from The Constitution but from state charters, from “we the people.” Over the years it has become, oftentimes for simplistic legal reasons, common in law to refer to corporations as “persons.” This umbrella term has been used so often in legal decisions that corporations have become conflated with *actually being* persons, hence, the term “corporate personhood.” This is how “Hal,” the non-human, corporate entity has taken over planet Earth.

The usurpation of government by corporate interests has been with us ever since King George insisted that Bostonians buy their tea from the East India Company. 100 years later, in the 1886 Supreme Court Santa Clara decision, the “Railroad Royalty” snuck the word “persons” into our common law. And, no, it was not a simple clerical error; there is mounting evidence that the clerk, J.C. Bancroft Davis, a former railroad lawyer, colluded with Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Field, another former railroad lawyer. (Hartmann, 17-19; 14-44) “Corporate personhood” went on steroids when Justice Lewis Powell promoted an “activist court” in the 70’s. There are two telling examples of this unleashed corporate power:

“The 1978 decision in First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti (written by Justice Lewis Powell) struck down a Massachusetts law banning corporate funding for or against citizen referendum campaigns. The referendum ...would have allowed Massachusetts to have a progressive, graduated income tax instead of one where the poor paid the

same rate as the rich. That was the question that galvanized corporations such as Bank of Boston, Gillette, and Digital Corporation to sue for corporate speech rights to block a citizen referendum.” (Clements, 118) Another example is Monsanto Corporations successful suit against Vermont dairy farmers who wanted their milk that was not produced by cows injected with rBST (artificial growth hormone) to be labeled “Our Farmers Pledge: No Artificial Growth Hormones.” The court’s decision, in this case, was that “the people of Vermont had caused a ‘wrong’ to the industrial dairy manufacturers’ constitutional right not to speak.” (Clements, 45)

The latest travesty of justice, the Citizen’s United case in 2010 codified “corporate personhood” and essentially defined money as free speech, resulting in the corporate-funded super-PACs that now determine who we vote for and who will win. Statistically, 94 percent of all elections are determined by he who spends the most money (usually on negative ads). (“Money Wins Presidency”) As we currently see, the Republican primary contest is the poster child for this mockery of democracy (“In Romney’s Super Pac”).

Franklin D. Roosevelt warned us seventy-five years ago on the eve of WWII that “*The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic State itself. That, in its essence, is fascism—ownership of government by an individual, by a group or by any other controlling private power.*”

Today, Liberals who tend to blame the multinational corporations for our economic woes, are finding common ground with Conservatives who tend to blame government. It matters little which came first, the chicken or the egg, the unholy alliance between corporations and government must be dismantled. It saddens me that the Ashland City Council did not, of its own accord, join the cities of Los Angeles, New York, Portland, Madison, Duluth and others and pass a resolution calling on Congress to amend the Constitution. They chose, instead, to “let George do it” (or, in this case, Senator Jeff Merkley, a sponsor of just one of several “move to amend” type resolutions in congress). Disempowering themselves and their constituents, the Ashland City Council chose to abdicate their roles as leaders and American citizens when they could have made it clear that only living persons -- not corporations -- are endowed with constitutional rights and that money is not the same as free speech. I am confident that a new and enlightened city council will come to see the wisdom and strength in sister city resolutions and realize that it is time to pull the plug on Hal.

Free Original Composition Recital Honoring David Michael Grubbs

Southern Oregon University (SOU) guitarist and composer, Tye Austin Hoseclaw, will present original works at SOU Recital Hall on Mountain Ave. on Friday, March 9th at 12:30 p.m. His recital program is dedicated to David Michael Grubbs, the 23-year-old Ashland man who was brutally murdered on November 19, 2011 along the Ashland bikeway. The program includes a new composition honoring Grubbs written for vocal parts, soprano, alto, and bass, and accompanied by classical guitar and double bass (stand-up). Grubbs played the double bass in the Oregon Youth Symphony.

“While doing my own research on the Grubb’s case, I learned that David was an avid musician and actually lived for music. Considering how much music means to me in my life, I would be truly honored if one of my contemporaries composed a piece of music in commemoration of my life. Perhaps this was my muse,” said Austin.

At 22 years of age, Austin has studied guitar performance and music composition for three years and will complete his dual emphasis in the spring of 2013.

“It brings me great satisfaction to compose the music and venue for the community to congregate in paying this musical tribute to a son of our beloved community in Ashland Oregon. David’s presence and kindness enriched us for far too short a time,” said Austin.

The 45-minute recital starts at 12:30 p.m. on March 9th and is open to all ages and free to the public.

“There’s a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious—makes you so sick at heart—that you can’t take part. You can’t even passively take part. And you’ve got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you’ve got to make it stop. And you’ve got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it that unless you’re free, the machine will be prevented from working at all.”

~ Mario Savio

Subscribe to the Ashland Free Press TODAY

Do you value independent media? In the 1980’s about 50 corporations controlled US media, and now almost everything we read, watch, and hear is owned by six giant corporations. These “big six” own television networks, movie studios, newspapers, publishing houses, music labels and websites.

It’s more important than ever to support local, independent media resources. Ashland’s Independent Media week is coming up April 15-21.

Folks have been asking us if we would be offering subscriptions to AFP soon, and we are ready to do so. This is an opportunity to support the efforts of AFP with the added value of enjoying copies of AFP delivered to your front door. Never miss a copy! No more frantic searches through the downtown to find that the last available copies of AFP are gone—subscribers will enjoy first run editions.

An annual subscription to AFP (24 issues) is \$75. Payments can be sent via Paypal to Jason@kskq.org or mailed to “Ashland Free Press” 258 A Street #1-20, Ashland, OR 97520.

Copies of AFP can be found at KSKQ, DUDE, A Street Print and Parcel, in boxes downtown, on the SOU campus and many businesses.

Join us on Facebook (search Ashland Free Press), and share your content, story ideas and comments. **You can also find Ashland Free Press online at our brand new website: ashlandfreepress.wordpress.com and rogueimc.org.**

Submissions may be sent to ashlandfreepress@activist.com or call the AFP hotline at 541-622-9483.



The next issue of AFP will be coming out the week of March 18 and we always welcome local submissions which meet our editorial guidelines. Those guidelines are pretty simple. AFP seeks content which promotes social justice, is fair and does no harm. We especially look for pieces which give a call to action and or tell us about upcoming events in an interesting and useful way. Thanks to the many people who have supported AFP and our efforts in highlighting social justice causes and information.

GMO Threat Rallies Rogue Valley

By Jason Houk

With the revelation that genetically modified crops are being planted and grown here in the Rogue Valley, organic farmers and concerned citizens are working on ways to locally protect our food supply and farmers livelihood.

“Protecting our farmers and seed stocks from this threat to livelihood and life is so very important right now.” writes local organic farmer and seed grower Chris Hardy.

Last week, Hardy and a group of almost 70 concerned citizens came together to create “GMO Free Jackson County”. The group's vision was acted upon to keep our farmers' seeds and our food supply safe from potential cross-pollination and contamination. Their goal is to make the deadline for a November ballot initiative that would prohibit the planting of GMO crops in the Rogue Valley. Genetically Modified crops threaten local farmers because the pollen from GMOs cross-pollinate with local organic crops. Local farmers will be unable to sell their crops or use their own seeds. Local retailers such as the Ashland Food Coop and Market of Choice will no local suppliers for their organic products.

“Today I learned about a genetically engineered sugar beet project being carried out by SYN-

GENTA corporation, right here in Ashland.” writes Hardy. “Pollen from these plants may travel [up to] six miles to cross pollinate with other beets and chard. This is twice the length of my town of 22,000 people. “

Agricorps such as Monsanto, Syngenta and Bayer have been planting in the Rogue Valley for years now. Many of these modified crops have not yet been approved for human consumption. The recent revelation about the sugar beets may just be the tip of the iceberg.

“I was told that projects like this are happening all around the valley, and that prospective land owners are being sought out for these projects and associated land leases,” Hardy said.

Because of the possibility of contamination, Hardy’s future is uncertain. “We may be losing our land.”

“Land owners are just trying to get some farming activity going on their land.” laments Hardy. “Can you blame them? They know not, a better way.”

“If you eat chard or beets, [and you] care to have them produced by your local farmer, you should care about this project” says Hardy

The group will meet again on Monday March 5th, 9-11am in Gresham Room, Ashland Public Library.

Unemployment Numbers Reveal Forgotten Folks

By Vanessa Houk

Earlier this week, WorkSource Oregon released a report stating that unemployment continues to decline in our fair state. At first glance it sounds very positive. A little over a year ago, in January 2011, Oregon's unemployment rate was 10.4% and the latest figures show that it has dropped down to 8.8%.

The optimist in me thinks it might be time to throw a party hat on and celebrate, but then there is the nagging reminder of the many discouraged workers who have fallen off the state's radar. In order to qualify for unemployment benefits, workers answer a weekly survey regarding their work searches and if a client admits that they have given up looking for a job, they are no longer counted as unemployed workers. So is it any wonder that the unemployment numbers continue to drop? After all, there is a long parade of invisible, tired, demoralized workers within that data.

What do unemployment numbers really mean? Does the Labor Department use the unemployment rolls in order to define the unemployment rate in each state?

To begin to make sense of that, first you have to understand that the Labor Department is only

concerned with the U.S labor force, that is working -aged-people who meet their specific criteria.

The truth of the matter is that the unemployment figures are not gathered by investigating the number of people who are collecting unemployment. It appears that the US Labor Department uses another method to figure out that rate. Since 1940 they have done a monthly survey, called the Current Population Survey (CPS) to measure the extent of unemployment in the country. According to the US Department of Labors website there are about 60,000 households within the survey.

The Labor Departments report also shows that there are less working age people in the labor force. Bloomberg recently reported that this new data shows that 88 million Americans aged 16 years or older aren't currently working and are not looking for work.

So the unemployment figures seem even muddier to me.

If we accept that 8.8% figure, we're really still thinking about 190,000 Oregonians who are unemployed or underemployed. That's a lot of struggling families in an economy that is not forgiving.

The party hat is off and the fight for better working conditions continues.

This Land is My Land Because I Say So

By Deb Vanpoolen

A few years ago I worked in Missoula Montana as a rock climbing guide. On one oppressively hot summer day I took some seven-year-old kids to a nearby river which had good beginner climbing rocks. When we arrived, we found that another group was roping up to climb those exact rocks. While waiting, and since I was not allowed to take the kids in the river, I suggested the kids build something out of the abundant driftwood on the beach.

All of the kids decided to create shady structures. They divided themselves into one group of three boys and one of two girls. The boys' group found a 3' by 4' piece of corrugated metal to use as a roof. The girls and I found lots of sticks which we leaned up against a couple of big branches to make a lean-to form.

While the boys were finding great pieces of wood to support the metal roof, they valued each of their findings so highly that when any of us girls wandered into their area of construction, they would issue stern

Exploring Alternatives to Military Enlistment

by Don Chapin, Ph.D.

“Neither the website nor our presentations are intended to appear pejorative to military enlistment, but we feel the militarism we see in society and the gilded view our youngsters get from most military recruiters needs a balance. Therefore, we, as military veterans and retirees, provide lifestyle information, prospective military recruit advocacy, contract review and even Conscientious Objector draft information.”

This is a sort of preamble on our website, one that is intended to get you to really look at what an eight year military enlistment (yes, that’s right eight years) might do to your life, or, if you insist on enlisting, we can help you work to make it do something for your life.

In these times of the economic draft (as opposed to the Selective Service draft that all males 18-26 must legally sign up for), many of you think that “military enlistment is an easy out”, that all you have to do is tough it out for a short time in basic training, and you’ve then got it pretty easy for the rest of your three to four year hitch (better read the contract!!!). Our website at rvpv.org tries to provide a lot of the pros and cons of military life (though we can’t cover all of them), as well as “the tip of the iceberg” in civilian jobs and careers.

How about giving yourself a couple weeks homework assignment to investigate much more rewarding jobs in the civilian sector. Sure, manufacturing is rapidly vanishing in this country while the service and information sectors are quite strong. However, there are science and engineering jobs “out there” that can be quite challenging and, from my experience, an S&E job in a small company can be a lot of fun, since you could be wearing many different hats.

O.K., so everyone keeps shouting “COLLEGE, COLLEGE,” as if that’s a panacea. It’s not. Yes, a college graduate will have less chance of unemployment than a high school graduate and far more than a high school drop-out, but what do you intend to do with that degree? Yes, with the right connections, etc. you can join Wall Street and become a one-percenter, but aside from the finances, is that rewarding?

Once you start looking around, you’ll find a dizzying amount of worthwhile and interesting alternatives to enlistment. Most schools have very good career centers, but I’d wager our Alternatives website page has one or two that aren't in most career centers. Visit: www.rvpv.org/Alternatives.html.

Don Chapin is an ordained minister, 30 years in aerospace engineering, 10 years as a publisher and a consultant. He currently heads the Rogue Valley Peace Veterans, doing group and one-on-one presentations on military life and S&E careers, with a website at <http://www.rvpv.org>.

More US Soldiers Committed Suicide Than Died in Combat

Via Project Censored

For the second year (2010) in a row, more US soldiers killed themselves (468) than died in combat (462). “If you... know the one thing that causes people to commit suicide, please let us know,” General Peter Chiarelli told the Army Times, “because we don’t know.” Suicide is a tragic but predictable human reaction to being asked to kill – and watch your friends be killed – particularly when it’s for a war based on lies.

Perhaps being required to bag the mangled flesh of fellow soldiers could be another reason that some are committing suicide.

Body Bagging... ever heard the term? Marines in the Corps’s Mortuary Affairs unit at Camp Al Taqaddum, Iraq, are assigned the job of collecting and cataloging the bodies of dead Marines. They sift through the remains and effects, from prom photos to suicide notes and love letters, and put them into a bag, then into a metal box and then into a refrigerator to await the flight home. One soldier, Jess Goodell, recounts a Marine brought into the unit still breathing. She frantically called to her superiors, who replied simply, “Wait.” She watched while he died.

When she returned to the US, Goodell, like many others, was diagnosed with deep depression, substance abuse, PTSD and anxiety.

warnings that we were not to walk into their area of settlement or take any of the wood which belongs to them. The girls and I wandered far in the other direction to gather materials.

The boys seemed very happy with this arrangement until their silly roof fell down once again from its nice perch, and it was lunchtime. The girls opened their sack lunches while seated contently in the shady lean-to. The boys nonchalantly walked over to the shelter and sat down inside.

Soon another group of kids walked onto the sweltering beach. One boy said that no one should invite those other kids into the shelter. The other boys agreed and, together, they drew a sign in the sand: “NO ONE ALLOWED HERE.” Can you believe it?

This true story demonstrates the silliness of the land ownership concept. Is it rational for people to lay absolute claim to the ground under our feet which they did not create? Another question: does it make sense that it is illegal to simply lay on public, common ground overnight in Ashland?

Iran Teach-in Scheduled at SOU

The SOU United Nations Association Club is hosting a teach-in on Iran this coming Thursday, March 8th at 5 p.m. in the Rogue River Room of the Stevenson Union.

Topics include a brief history of U.S.-Iranian relations, Israeli push for military action by the U.S., the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the nuclear programs of the U.S., Israel, and Iran. Also discussed will be the status of Iran's nuclear program and the current situation from the perspective of Iranians.

Speakers include local peace activists Herbert Rothschild Jr., Daniel Guy and Elahe Young.

Rotchschild received his BA at Yale and MA and PhD at Harvard. He taught at Louisiana State University and University of Houston. In 1978 he started the nuclear disarmament movement in Louisiana, and later was executive director of the New Jersey affiliate of the 200,000 member national organization formed by the merger of Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. He currently serves as chair of Peace House.

Guy was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army (Reserve), trained in military intelligence and deployed overseas in Norway and in South Korea. Currently Daniel is president of Rogue Valley Veterans for Peace, Chapter 156.

Young is originally from Tehran, Iran and lived in Japan for 17 years to teach the Baha’i Faith. Young is a member of the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of Medford, Oregon

National Cash Mob Day March 24

Did you ever notice how simple ideas can feel revolutionary? In these pages you might often hear us condemning corporate greed, but we also aim to inspire you to buy local. Hopefully most of us already do that, in whatever way we can afford to, but what if we take it a step further?

What if we have a "Cash Mob" here in Ashland and support a single, locally owned small business on March 24 (1 pm)? What if that business is one that has a history of giving back to the community in some way? Imagine if 50 people show up, ready to spend \$20; what kind of positive impact could that have on that single business, on us, on the whole community?

Let's find out together! We're looking for AFP reader suggestions and ideas of what local business you would like to mob. Please join us on Facebook and vote. Search "Ashland Cash Mob on National Cash Mob Day" for the event information or "like" Ashland Free Press on Facebook or email Vanessa at ashlandfreepress@activist.com and mark March 24th on your calendar.

Workers Rights Forum: Making Cooperative Values Work at AFC

Owners of Ashland Food Co-op invite the workers, fellow owners and the public for a discussion about the effort to unify cooperative and union values at the Co-op. Talk with workers and share their stories of building a union together. Learn more about the moral and historical aspects of unions in this country.

**March 11th, 6-8pm
La Casa Del Pueblo
1209 Siskiyou Blvd.
Downstairs dining room.**

Light appetizers will be provided, food and drink available. For more information call 541-482-4111— www.justiceforcoopworkers.com

Occupy Main Street

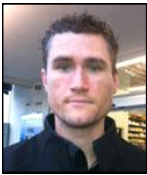
Whereby our roving reporter takes questions to people on the street.

This week I stopped folks to ask a couple of questions:

1. What do you think about our food safety? and
2. Do you have an opinion about Monsanto?

The Occupy movement has become active over food safety issues, and several lawsuits have been filed against Monsanto from coast to coast in an effort to make our food less harmful. Many countries won't allow 'franken-foods', and we don't even require labeling of same. Are we the guinea pigs? Can we afford GMOs and unhealthy foods? How can we take action?

A hui hou,
Karen Jeffery



Flip Livingston. 30, Graphic Designer

1. Food safety is very important. We need better regulation by the FDA and all grocery stores. Health and well-being is crucial to society.
2. Monsanto? I'd better study up.



Maren Faye. 58 Chef and Caterer

1. Our food is NOT safe. The country has been polluted with GMOs. There's NO organic corn and soybeans since Monsanto developed GMO seeds. We can't trust them or USDA. I trust only Oregon Tilth.
2. Satan! They should be stopped from hurting small farmers and Mother Nature. They've totally compromised our food.



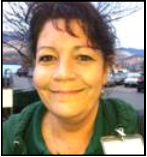
Angela Jones. 34, Mom

1. Our food is not as safe as we think. People need to grow their own food, collect seeds.
2. You don't want me to swear in your column, do you? Seeds are sacred and took millions of years to create and evolve.



Evan Lasley. 20, Student

1. We need to regulate corporations so we have clean, non GMO foods. Keep it local, and start a State Bank to invest in local agriculture.
2. I know they're bad. They escape regulations to monopolize world markets. GMOs eliminate quality and competition.



Janet Doyle. 47, Health & Beauty Clerk

1. It's seriously lacking. We need more onsite inspectors from production to sales, including shops and restaurants.
2. No comment (diplomatically)